

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2239

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: CPSU CC PLENUM RESOLUTION ON FOREIGN POLICY

REF: MOSCOW 5297

CANADIAN DEL HAS CIRCULATED FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY CANADIAN
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ON THE APRIL 16 FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTION OF THE
PLENUM AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU.

BEGIN TEXT:

CLEARLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE FOREIGN
POLICY RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE PLENUM IS THAT IT REPRESENTS
A STRONG ENDORSEMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF BREZHNEV'S
POLICY OF DETENTE. AT THE SAME TIME, IN A NOD TO PARTY HARDLINERS
AND PERHAPS ALSO AS A REFLECTION OF GROWING SOVIET CONFIDENCE
ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, THE DOCUMENT CONTAINS SOME FAIRLY
TOUGH LANGUAGE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A WARNING TO THE
WEST THAT DETENTE HAS ITS LIMITS FROM THE SOVIET STANDPOINT.
BEYOND THAT THE DOCUMENT IS DISTINGUISHED BY ITS CAUTION
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GENERALITY AND ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCES TO SPECIFIC WORLD
TROUBLE SPOTS, SUCH AS THE IDEAS OF INDOCHINA, UNDOUBTEDLY
IN AN EFFORT NOT TO EMBROIL THE USSR IN UNNECESSARY CONTROVERSY
AT A TIME WHEN EVENTS ON THE WORLD SCENE SEEM TO BE EVOLVING

LARGELY IN THEIR FAVOUR.

THIS INTERPRETATION WAS LARGELY CONFIRMED BY THE HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE OF USA AND CANADIAN STUDIES WITH WHOM THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE USSR TALKED ON APRIL 17. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE RESOLUTION ON FOREIGN POLICY WAS INTENDED AS A STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF DETENTE AND SAID THAT , WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN DIFFERENCES ON THIS SUBJECT WITHIN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, THE POLITBURO AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE NOW UNANIMOUSLY BEHIND THE PRESENT POLICY. HE ADDED THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS INTENDED AS A SLIGHT SIGN TO THE WEST THAT THERE MAY BE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A RETREAT FROM DETENTE MIGHT BE FORCED ON USSR. THE WEST SHOULD THEREFORE BE CAREFUL.

IT IS INTERESTING THAT OUR SOVIET INFORMANT MENTIONED DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP ABOUT DETENTE. THIS TENDS TO CONFIRM REORTS THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS ON THIS SCORE LAST WINTER. IN ANY EVENT PUBLICATION OF A DOCUMENT ENDORSING SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WOULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN NECESSARY IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FELT A PUBLIC CLARICICATION OF THE MATTER WAS REQUIRED.

THE ENDORSEMENT OF DETENTE IN THE RESOLUTION IS LARGELY IN THE FORM OF SUPPORT AND APPROVAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAMME ADOPTED AT THE 24TH PARTY CONGRESS IN 1971. FOR EXAMPLE,IT " NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE COURSE OF EVENTS CONFIRMED CONVINCINGLY THE CORRECTNESS AND FAR SIGHTEDNESS" OF THE 24TH CONGRESS PEACE PROGRAMME. THE DOCUMENT ALSO REAFFIRMS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THE STANDARD SOVIET DEFINITION OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN TERMS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS. FINALLY, AND OF INTEREST PARTICULARLY IN THE CSCE CONTEXT, IT STRESS THE NECESSITYOF EXTENDING DETENTE FROM THE POLITICAL TO THE MILITARY SPHERES AND BEYOND TO THE AREA OF ECONOMIC SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL AND CULTRUAL RELATION AND IN PARTICULAR DISARMAMENT.

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IN ADDITION TO SUPPORT FOR DETENTE ITSELF, THE RESOLUTION REGISTERS SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMME OF HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS AND SUMMITRY BY WHICH BREZHNEV WAS CHOSEN TO PURSUE AND PROMOTE THIS POLICY.

ON THE IDEOLOGICAL FRONT THE DOCUMENT ALSO TAKES A FAIRLY GENTLY APPPRAOCH, LIMITING ITSELF TO RESTRAINED REFERNECES TO THE ADVANTAGES OF SOCIALISM " AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRESNET ECONOMIC CRISIS AND OTHER UPHEAVALS IN THECAPITALIST COUNTRIES" AND "SOLIDARITY WITH THE FIGHTERS FOR SOCIAL AND NATIONAL LIBERATION".

AT THE SAME TIME, THE RESOLUTION IS BY NO MENAS AN

UNQUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT OF DETENTE. IT NOTES AT ONE POINT, IN MODERATELY STRONG TERMS, THAT THE "THE FORCES OF WAR, REACTION AND AGGRESSION DO NOT GIVE UP ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE THE POSITIVE PROCESS TAKING PLACE IN THE WORLD OF TODAY. THEY STEP UP THE ARMS RACE, OPPOSE THE LIQUIDATION OF THE EXISTING WORLD CRISIS, TRY TO THWART THE PEOPLES STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY BY GROSS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, TO DISCREDIT THE POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE". THIS COULD BE TAKEN AS A GENTLE WARNING TO OTHERS ABOUT THE LIMITS OF DETENTE AND WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THAT ARBATOV HAD IN MIND WHEN HE MENTIONED A "SIGN" TO THE WEST.

FINALLY, THE RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT OF COURSE BE CONSIDERED SOLELY IN TERMS OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. ITS APPEARANCE AND THE REMOVAL OF SHELEPIN BOTH INDICATED A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF BREZHNEV'S POSITION INTERNALLY AT A TIME WHEN THE PARTY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN THE LONG AND COMPLICATED PROCESS OF PREPARING FOR ITS 25TH CONGRESS. END TEXT. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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